

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 15515 241012Z

21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01

SCCT-01 AID-05 /072 W

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O R 240915Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7829

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 15515

DELIVER DRAPER, NEA/ARN OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJ: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. IT IS A GRIM, GRIM MORNING, NOT ONLY THE NEWS FROM ATHENS BUT ALSO ATTEMPTED MURDER OF KARAME'S BROTHER IN TRIPOLI, CONTINUED SERIOUS ENGAGEMENTS IN NORTHERN LEBANON, PLUS WHAT PRESS DESCRIBES AS RELATIVE CALM IN ZAHLE RESULTING HOWEVER THREE DEAD, FIVE WOUNDED.

2. CHAMOUN HAS SAID HE DOUBTS EFFICACY OF HOLIDAY TRUCE, AND HE FEARS THAT FIGHTING IN BEIRUT WILL SPREAD TO AREAS NOT RPT NOT HERETOFORE AFFLICTED, I.E, HAMRA AND RAS BEIRUT.

3. HAD AN HOUR'S TALK YESTERDAY AFTERNOON WITH FRENCH AM-BASSADOR WHO HAD JUST MET WITH EUROPEAN NINE. HE HAD NOTHING TO SUGGEST AND COULD ANTICIPATE ONLY CONTINUATION OF TROUBLES. ELIAS SARKIS (SEPTTEL) NORMALLY OPTIMISTIC, AT DINNER LAST NIGHT IN FRONT OF OTHER LEBANESE EXPRESSED GREAT GLOOM AND HOPELESSNESS.

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 15515 241012Z

4. SUNNI MUFTI RETURNED YESTERDAY FROM SAUDI ARABIA.

THIS COINCIDED WITH KING KHALED'S ARRIVAL IN AMMAN AND LATEST HOPE FOR SAUDI INTERVENTION, ESPECIALLY AS MUFTI REPORTS KHALED PREPARED DO EVERYTHING TO HELP LEBANON. CHAMOUN'S ON-AGAIN-OFF AGAIN MEETING WITH 'ARAFAT HAS STILL NOT RPT NOT TAKEN PLACE. WE UNDERSTAND CHAMOUN GETTING HARDER-NOSED EVERY DAY. HIS ALLEGATION RE FOREIGN FORCES IN ZAHLE STILL BEING REHASHED IN PRESS WITH EACH PAPER REFLECTING ITS POLITICAL ORIENTATION.

5. KARAME REPORTING TO CABINET TODAY RE WEEKEND VISIT TO DAMASCUS AND POSSIBILITY FRANGIE/ASAD/'ARAFAT MINI-SUMMIT. WE HAVE NOTHING DEFINITE YET RE KARAME VISIT. BRIG MUSA KANAN, HOWEVER, HAS INDICATED TO A MUTUAL FRIEND HIS DISCOURAGEMENT FOLLOWING THE VISIT FOR "NOTHING WAS REALLY ACCOMPLISHED." YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT SESSION HAD TO BE CANCELLED WHEN ONLY 13 DEPUTIES APPEARED. GODLEY

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